

in literature and specimens in MH, it was identified as *Thottea dinghoui* Swarup, a new species from Kerala, hitherto unrecorded from Tamil Nadu.

The description and illustration of the species are given, along with distribution, ecology and phenology. The voucher specimens are deposited in the St. Xavier's College Herbarium (XCH), St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai.

Thottea dinghoui Swarup

In: Blumea 28 (1983): 407-411

Erect herbs, 30-50 cm tall; stem rusty, pubescent. Leaves alternate, elliptic-oblongate, margin entire, apex acute, base acute to slightly obtuse, densely villous below, less so above, nerves prominent, *c.* 5 pairs, 9-17 x 3-8 cm; petiole up to 1 cm long. Inflorescence radical, *c.* 8 cm long; peduncle up to 0.5 cm long. Flowers 7-10, alternate, pale yellow; bracts and bracteoles small. Calyx 3-lobed, free, ovate-elliptic-orbicular, apex acute, base cuneate, hairy without, glabrous within, up to 5 mm long. Corolla 0. Stamens many, 15-20, in two whorls; filament short, connate at base, anther 2-celled, glabrous. Ovary oblong, *c.* 1 cm long, hairy; ovules numerous, in axile placentation; style short. Stigma 3-6 lobed. Capsule hairy, up to 5 cm long, quadrangular, pale pink. Seeds many.

Distribution: Prior to the present finding, reported only from Idukki district, Kerala. Probably endemic to southern Western Ghats, India.

Remarks: Extremely rare species, growing in the evergreen forests as undergrowth.

Fl. & Fr.: August-December.

Material examined: Tamil Nadu: Tirunelveli district, Sivasailam, V.S. Manickam 16673, 17174 (XCH). Kerala: Idukki district: C.N. Mohanan, Kulamavu 74117, 81603 (MH), A.G. Pandurangan, Meenmutty-Kulamavu 76679 (MH), Mount Calvary 79233 (MH).

Note: *Thottea dinghoui* Swarup is closely allied to *Thottea barberi* (Gamble) Ding Hou and *Thottea siliquosa* (Lamk.) Ding Hou, but differs in the habit, inflorescence and leaf morphology.

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40. OCCURRENCE OF *NERVILIA ARAGOANA* GAUD. (ORCHIDACEAE) ON THE NALLAMALAI HILLS, EASTERN GHATS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

During a survey of medicinal plants of the Nallamalai Hills, Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh, we collected specimens of an interesting ground orchid that was examined and identified as *Nervilia aragoana* Gaud. A survey of the literature revealed its presence in the hilly tracts

of Western Ghats, Himalayas and Eastern Ghats. It has been reported to occur in Rampa Hills, Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh (Gamble 1967). However, there exists no report of its occurrence from the Nallamalai Hills (Ellis 1968, 1987; Krishna Mohan 1985; Raju and Pullaiah 1995).

Hence, this is a new distributional record from Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh. The voucher specimens have been deposited in R.R.C. (Ay.) Herbarium, Vijayawada (F. No. 3772, 12.xi.1998, near Pedda Manthanalamma area, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh, coll. P. Dwarkan, Srinivasulu, Vasudeva Rao, Nagulu).

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41. ABNORMAL BRANCHING BEHAVIOUR OF WILD DATE PALM
PHOENIX SYLVESTRIS ROXB. (PALMAE)

During a survey of the forest areas of Deola Forest Range in Udaipur district, I came across a wild date palm (*Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb.) with abnormal branching. The tree was growing in an agricultural field, nearly 2 km away from Akyawar Forest Nursery, towards the western side on Udaipur-Sirohi Road. This young tree had 125 shoots of different sizes in the basal region. Nearly each leaf of the basal region had produced a shoot. These shoots looked like a circular fence around the main trunk. Basal leaves of all the surrounding shoots

had also produced several shoots. I am observing this tree since 1993, and it is still producing new shoots.

It is, perhaps, the wild date palm having the largest number of shoots in Rajasthan, and is hence worth placing on record.

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42. AN EFFECTIVE ETHNOBOTANICAL MEDICINE AGAINST HEMIPLAGIA

This article deals with the ethnobotanical use of three medicinally important plants used by the local *vaidya* of Khatana village against the dreaded disease hemiplegia, i.e. paralysis.

Khatana village lies in Dharampur taluka, Valsad district, south Gujarat, on the northwest side of the Western Ghats (20° 5' N; 73° 7' E). It is about 8 km away from Dharampur on its east.